

Ontario Housing Corporation

The Ontario Housing Corporation has been a major force in residential development in Ontario and will provide an essential operating arm for the Ministry of Housing.

It was established ten years ago as a crown corporation to plan, develop and administer public housing in Ontario.

Since then it has initiated a wide range of activities to provide good housing accommodation at reasonable cost for low- and middle-income families, students, senior citizens and other groups across Ontario.

It has programs to buy and build housing, develop housing lots and administer housing developments. Largest of the current programs is the provision of housing for lower income families and senior citizens on a rent-gearied-to-income basis.

The leasing of land under the Home Ownership Made Easy Program (HOME) helps middle-income families to acquire their own homes by eliminating land costs from the down payments.

Condominium housing has been encouraged with mortgages from Ontario Housing Corporation, and special programs have been developed to overcome housing shortages in smaller communities and northern areas.

Although Ontario Housing Corporation will continue to operate as a ministry agency reporting through the Minister of Housing for the time being, many of its programs will be integrated with other activities of the ministry as part of Ontario's new housing policy.

directory of services

Following is a list of telephone numbers which should assist anyone seeking advice or service from Queen's Park:

Accounts	965-4992
Committees of Adjustment	965-5780
Consents, Severances	965-1495
Variances	
Condominium Agreements	965-1330
Deputy Minister, R. M. Warren	965-3411
Grants, Subsidies, Loans, Urban Renewal	965-2826
Housing Action Group	965-3173
Land Division Committees	965-5780
Legal Services	965-6926
Library	965-2314
Mapping, Illustrative Records	965-6946
Minister's Office, Hon. Robert Welch	965-6502
Neighbourhood Improvement Program (NIP)	965-2826
Niagara Escarpment Planning Regulations	965-1495
North Pickering Development Team	965-3031
Office Services	965-6259
Official Plans	965-1495
Ontario Housing Corporation	966-3600
Project Development	965-2826
Personnel Administration	965-6171
Severances	965-5780
Subdivision Approvals	965-5780
Urban Renewal	965-2826



Ontario

Ministry of
Housing

Hon. Robert Welch, minister
Michael Warren, deputy minister

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our programs

The government is already meeting many of these objectives but the responsibility for our housing activities has been shared by several agencies and ministries. These programs, along with the staff who have been responsible for them, have been transferred to form the core of the new Ministry of Housing.

The best known of these is the Ontario Housing Corporation which will continue, for the time being, as a separate agency under the Minister of Housing.

The others are the Plans Administration Branch and part of the Project Development Group which were in the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs along with the North Pickering Community Development Team.

While we proceed with the internal organization of our ministry, these units will continue their present functions and services to the citizens of Ontario.

The Plans Administration Branch provides advice and assistance to the government, municipalities and developers on subdivisions, zoning by-laws, severances and official plans to ensure they are consistent with provincial planning and housing objectives.

The Project Development Group represents us in federal-provincial-municipal programs for neighbourhood renewal and redevelopment.

The North Pickering Group provides provincial direction in controlling and balancing future development in this special planning area of farmlands northeast of Metropolitan Toronto.

Although some of the planning activities of the ministry are being decentralized to regional municipalities, the scope covered by these groups provides the ministry with the means of increasing the supply of serviced land for housing; of assisting municipalities in the rehabilitation of existing housing and neighbourhoods; and of developing techniques and resources to provide innovative housing and new communities in Ontario.

housing action program

Just over a year ago the government appointed an Advisory Task Force to assess the supply of housing in Ontario and suggest improvements.

In September the Task Force, under the chairmanship of Eli Comay, made its report, and the government immediately adopted recommendations to establish a Ministry of Housing and launch a Housing Action Program.

The Task Force set a goal of 1,000,000 new housing units for the next ten years but it said there are acute housing problems right now in Metropolitan Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa and some communities in Northern Ontario.

In each case, the demand for housing is outstripping the supply of building lots and there was no foreseeable improvement.

As a result, the Housing Action Group was established to work with Mr. Comay and was given a specific assignment to "develop an action program in consultation with local and regional municipalities to speed up the supply of housing lots and rental accommodation to meet current demands for housing."

As part of its assignment, it was also asked to examine methods to improve development applications, make recommendations on servicing, new construction of multiple housing and the development of publicly-owned lands—in short, cutting through a lot of red tape.

The first of several proposals should be ready in the coming weeks and will provide a basis for the first major initiative of our new ministry.

our challenge

The Ministry of Housing was established by the Legislature to direct and co-ordinate government efforts to meet the housing needs of Ontario residents.

Our goals and objectives are:

- to make appropriate recommendations to the Government of Ontario on policies and objectives on housing and related matters with regard to the short-term and long-term housing needs of the people of Ontario;
- to make recommendations for the effective co-ordination of all housing and related matters within the Government of Ontario, with a view to ensuring the consistent application of policy;
- to advise and otherwise assist the Government of Ontario in its dealings with other governments regarding housing and related matters; and
- to advise and otherwise assist local authorities and other persons involved in local planning and development of housing with regard to realizing the objectives of the Government of Ontario for housing and related matters.

The supply of adequate housing at reasonable cost is one of the great social goals of the Ontario Government and the major task of our ministry.

While we are a new ministry we are fortunate to draw from the staff, reputation and expertise of the several agencies and branches whose activities and initiatives we have been asked to carry forward.

Our success will depend in large measure on the encouragement and support from all levels of government, from the building and development industry and from the citizens of Ontario.

This brochure provides a brief outline of the components of our ministry and the programs which we have assumed.

Robert Welch

Robert Welch
Minister of Housing
January 1, 1974